

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 wasn't wandering around aimlessly. He wasn't  
3 just drifting off into -- he was staying pretty  
4 much stagnant in his locations unless being  
5 instructed to move from one location to the  
6 other.

7 Q. Would you agree with me that placing  
8 him in the patrol car to do the PBT he would  
9 have been in a safe position than being left in  
10 front of the car?

11 A. I don't believe that was an option  
12 at that time because myself and Trooper Dennis  
13 both have an amount of gear, police-related  
14 equipment, that we carry in the back seat of  
15 the patrol car. There is a very good  
16 possibility there was no room for him to sit in  
17 the back seat at that time.

18 Q. Why would you have not removed the  
19 gear from the back of the car before going out  
20 on a call to investigate an accident or going  
21 to some sort of scene? Didn't it cross your  
22 mind there was a possibility an arrest might be  
23 made?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But you didn't take the time to

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 clear out the back seat; is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Are you in the habit of having  
5 people that you arrest in the front seat with  
6 you and the other trooper?

7 A. No. Generally, after the arrest is  
8 made, then, we would rearrange our equipment,  
9 possibly placing some in the trunk or possibly  
10 moving it all onto the same side to make room  
11 for a passenger in the back seat.

12 Q. Why wouldn't that be done before  
13 going out on the call?

14 A. I leave it in a situation where it  
15 is accessible because I may need that during  
16 the call. Just because I am going to a  
17 location of a vehicle in a ditch, something of  
18 a higher priority could easily intervene and  
19 keep us from going to that location.

20 Q. What kind of equipment are we  
21 talking about?

22 A. Manuals, gloves, flashlights.

23 Q. Why would manuals be important?

24 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: Let him  
25 finish the answer, please.

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 MR. FEINSTEIN: I am sorry. I  
3 thought he was. I apologize.

4 Q. I am not trying to rush you.

5 A. The PBT would have been in the back  
6 seat because it doesn't work properly when it  
7 is cold, so being in the trunk could cause it  
8 to be unusable at the time.

9 Q. Why would manuals be important to be  
10 in the back seat?

11 A. A lot of my gear is in one bag so it  
12 is altogether. I don't have a book laying here  
13 (indicating) and a flashlight laying here  
14 (indicating). It is all in one bag.

15 Generally, I put it on the floor  
16 because in the course of our police duties, our  
17 driving maneuvers sometimes are abrupt and may  
18 cause things to fall off the seat. I have had  
19 my bag spill on occasion. Generally, I place  
20 it on the floor between the back seat and the  
21 front seat.

22 Q. I am sorry. We sort of got off on a  
23 tangent. You are walking toward the patrol  
24 car. You are slightly ahead of Mr. Bill. He  
25 is on your left. Tell me what happened.

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 A. I stopped at the front of the patrol  
3 car. I am showing him this is where I want him  
4 to stand. I explain to him I am going to  
5 retrieve something from the vehicle. I will be  
6 back in a matter of a few seconds and just wait  
7 in this location.

8 I believe I am pointing at the area  
9 with my flashlight so he can see where he is  
10 supposed to be.

11 Then I begin to put my flashlight in  
12 a flashlight holder that is on my duty belt,  
13 and he just falls.

14 Q. Do you actually see him fall?

15 A. I don't remember seeing him fall at  
16 the time. I have seen him fall in the  
17 videotape.

18 Q. Do you know what caused him to fall?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Did you see anything on the ground  
21 either before or after the accident, him  
22 falling, that he might have tripped or slipped  
23 on?

24 A. No, sir. In fact, I walked through  
25 the area myself on several occasions prior to

1                   V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2           that. I don't recall anything unusual about  
3           the roadway or the area around where he fell  
4           that would have been hazardous.

5           Q.       Based upon your observations of  
6           Mr. Bill prior to the time of his accident, the  
7           time that he fell, in your estimation could  
8           Mr. Bill have been charged with public  
9           intoxication or, in other words, do you believe  
10          that he was a hazard to himself or others?

11          A.       I don't know if I could have charged  
12          him for public intoxication because I believe  
13          the interior of the vehicle is not necessarily  
14          considered public.

15                 Since I had removed him from that  
16          area, it would be unfair for me to take him  
17          from the vehicle, place him in public, and then  
18          arrest him for public intoxication.

19          Q.       Let me rephrase my question. I am  
20          not asking whether he legally could be charged  
21          with public intoxication based upon the  
22          circumstances.

23                 My question to you is do you believe  
24          at the time that you observed Mr. Bill was he a  
25          danger to himself?

1 v. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: I will  
3 object to the form, but go ahead if you can  
4 answer.

5 My objection is you are mixing two  
6 different crimes. One is not at issue in the  
7 case, and that is fine if you want to make it  
8 an issue, but you are trying to ask him  
9 speculative questions about a guy that could  
10 have been charged with public intoxication  
11 under the circumstances he has said could not  
12 have been.

13 MR. FEINSTEIN: Let me respond  
14 to the objections. I understand your concerns,  
15 but I think you are missing the point because  
16 the question isn't whether he was guilty of  
17 public intoxication under the statute and the  
18 question isn't whether he was guilty of DUI.  
19 The question is what condition he was in at the  
20 time.

21 The trooper has given me a  
22 definition of what public intoxication is. I  
23 would like to know if in his estimation my  
24 client met that criteria because the trooper's  
25 obligations to my client are, in part, based

1 v. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 upon the level of intoxication that my client  
3 had at the scene. It has nothing to do if he  
4 was guilty of either crime.

5 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: I  
6 disagree. You can make your legal arguments.  
7 If you want him to speculate if he came across  
8 this guy without a car walking in the middle of  
9 the road and based on what he observed that was  
10 a public intoxication issue, but I think it is  
11 speculative.

12 MR. FEINSTEIN: That is okay.  
13 I will rephrase the question.

14 BY MR. FEINSTEIN:

15 Q. Based upon your observation and your  
16 training, when you saw or observed Mr. Bill on  
17 February 22, 2003, did you believe that he was  
18 a danger to himself or other people in the  
19 public?

20 A. In the condition that I saw him not  
21 driving, it is difficult to say because the  
22 actions that he were taking -- was taking --  
23 pardon my grammar -- were primarily as a result  
24 of my direction, so I don't know in a different  
25 situation had he been on his own and I had just

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 come across him what he would have been doing,  
3 what actions he would have taken to see if he  
4 would have endangered himself.

5 was he intoxicated? I believe he  
6 was, but would he have been endangering  
7 himself? I don't know. I could have come  
8 across him on a park bench. He is not in  
9 danger. If I come across him walking on an  
10 interstate limited access highway, he is. I  
11 don't know if I can honestly --

12 Q. Let me follow up on that. Part of  
13 your understanding of the public intoxication  
14 statute deals with the activity that the person  
15 is engaged in at the time that he is observed?

16 A. I am sorry. Could you say that  
17 again?

18 Q. Is part of your understanding of the  
19 public intoxication statute dependent upon the  
20 activity the person is engaged in at the time  
21 of the observation of the intoxicated behavior?

22 You gave me an example. I am going  
23 to use your example. One person who is sitting  
24 on a park bench and one person who is walking  
25 in the middle of the road, assuming they have



1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 the same level of intoxication, is one person  
3 guilty of public intoxication and the other  
4 person not?

5 A. Quite possibly, because if I see a  
6 person sitting on a park bench, I would have no  
7 reason to approach them to even determine what  
8 their level of intoxication is unless they are  
9 sitting there in a swimsuit and it is ten below  
10 zero or something, then, obviously; but unless  
11 they are doing something to attract my  
12 attention or my suspicion, without some cause,  
13 I probably wouldn't be approaching them anyway.

14 Q. What were the road conditions like  
15 on February 22, 2003?

16 A. They were wet, generally clear.

17 Q. Do you remember any icy conditions  
18 that night?

19 A. Not in that area.

20 Q. Do you recall the last time it had  
21 snowed prior to the time of February 22, 2003?

22 A. No, I don't.

23 Q. By the way, where was this arrest  
24 made?

25 A. You mean the road name?

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. What township was it in?

3 A. West Mead Township.

4 Q. Was this on a state highway?

5 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: Are you  
6 referring to your report?

7 A. I believe it is a township road. I  
8 don't recall offhand without looking -- if I  
9 had a copy of the criminal complaint, it would  
10 have it on there. Tamarack Drive. They were  
11 both township roads. They were the  
12 intersection of township roads.

13 Q. Why would the state police be called  
14 out to the scene as opposed to the local police  
15 force?

16 A. West Mead Township did not have any  
17 local police on duty at that time.

18 Q. So your jurisdiction covers that as  
19 well?

20 A. We cover any area that is not  
21 policed.

22 Q. Have you ever heard of the state  
23 created danger doctrine?

24 A. I may have discussed it with  
25 somebody in reference to this case at some

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 point. I don't remember specifically.

3 Q. What is your understanding of that?

4 A. I don't have any recollection of  
5 exactly what I discussed at this point.

6 Q. Before Mr. Bill fell on February 22,  
7 2003, did it ever cross your mind that he could  
8 fall and hurt himself?

9 A. It crossed my mind, yes. It wasn't  
10 of any great concern at that time.

11 Q. Why wasn't it of any great concern?

12 A. I have seen people with apparent  
13 higher levels of intoxication that were more  
14 unstable on their feet and that hadn't fallen  
15 down.

16 I had never had anybody completely  
17 fall down without any attempts to catch  
18 themselves before. He hadn't shown me any  
19 indication that he was going to fall. He was  
20 unsure on his footing at times but nothing  
21 extraordinary.

22 Q. I believe you testified earlier that  
23 you did not physically escort Mr. Bill over to  
24 the patrol car; correct?

25 A. That is correct.

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. Is there any reason why you didn't  
3 physically escort him over?

4 A. Yes, actually, there is. For one, I  
5 didn't feel there was a need at the time; and,  
6 two, if I am escorting him around, the validity  
7 of the videotape attempting to show if I am  
8 going to use that as prosecutorial evidence is  
9 greatly diminished.

10 If I am holding him, I could be  
11 influencing him whether I am holding him up or  
12 possibly pulling him trying to make him look  
13 like he stumbled or something. It removes the  
14 evidentiary value of the videotape.

15 Q. At some point prior to his falling,  
16 did you ask Mr. Bill for permission to do a  
17 blood test?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Do you know if a blood test was  
20 done?

21 A. Yes, there was.

22 Q. Was that with his consent or without  
23 his consent?

24 A. That was with his consent.

25 Q. When was his consent obtained?

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 A. May I refer to my report?

3 Q. Absolutely.

4 A. I read him some warnings at  
5 approximately 7:20. After reading those  
6 warnings, I asked him for consent, which he  
7 granted. At approximately 7:35 a blood sample  
8 was drawn in my presence.

9 Q. That was after he fell?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Do you have a routine as to whether  
12 you ask an individual for permission to do a  
13 blood test?

14 A. I don't know if it is a routine so  
15 much. It would be after the completion of all  
16 the sobriety tests, whatever observations were  
17 going to be made, and after they have been  
18 placed under arrest.

19 Q. That is including the PBT?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Is it your belief that you need a  
22 PBT in order to get a proximate cause to ask  
23 for the blood test?

24 A. It is not needed. It is just  
25 another step in the testing to obtain more

1                   V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2           probable cause.

3                   In this case I had very limited  
4           psychomotor testing with the one leg stand and  
5           the walk and turn, so it was just one more  
6           thing I could use in case of a suppression  
7           hearing or possibly if a refusal trial would  
8           result or something along those lines. There  
9           is another piece of evidence.

10           Q.     So you didn't feel that you had  
11           probable cause to arrest for DUI without a PBT  
12           in light of all of the circumstances that  
13           appear on this test report?

14           A.     As I stated before, I don't make  
15           that decision until I have completed all the  
16           tests I am going to do. I hadn't done that.

17                   I asked him to do the PBT and he  
18           refused. At that point I would have made my  
19           decisions based on what I saw there; and from  
20           knowing what I know today and reviewing, having  
21           a chance to review that, then, I would have  
22           felt that I did have probable cause, but I was  
23           still in the process of doing my tests to  
24           obtain all the probable cause that I am trained  
25           to obtain.

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. Trooper, have you ever gone to court  
3 to testify in DUI cases?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Have you gone to court to testify in  
6 DUI cases where there was no PBT done?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Have you gone to court in  
9 circumstances where there was no blood test  
10 done, where there was a refusal?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Have you gotten convictions under  
13 those circumstances?

14 A. Sometimes, yes.

15 Q. Is it still your testimony in light  
16 of the fact that based upon personal  
17 observations alone you were capable of getting  
18 convictions in DUI cases that you still needed  
19 the PBT test in order to get probable cause to  
20 arrest?

21 A. I didn't say I need. I am trained  
22 to use all the tests I have been trained to  
23 use. I want to use all the tests that I have.

24 I want to make the fairest and most  
25 accurate decision based on everything possible

1                   V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2           before I take someone into custody, place them  
3           under arrest.

4                   I was just in the process of doing  
5           the standard tests available to me at that time  
6           when they become abruptly terminated and I  
7           could not complete them.

8                   If I did not have the PBT test, I  
9           would have felt I could continue the case  
10          without it; but since I had it, I decided that  
11          I should use it.

12                  Q.       I don't want to put words in your  
13          mouth. Is it fair for me to say that you felt  
14          it was more important to obtain the PBT test  
15          than to place Mr. Bill into the patrol car into  
16          a position of safety?

17                   MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: Object to  
18          the form. I mean, you are concluding position  
19          of safety and making conclusions about that.  
20          You are putting words in his mouth there.

21                   MR. FEINSTEIN: He has already  
22          said placing him in the patrol car --

23                   MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: Wait a  
24          minute. I should have objected to that  
25          because, again, that was your characterization



1                   V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein  
2                   of safety if you said it.

3                   MR. FEINSTEIN: He already  
4                   testified that placing Mr. Bill in the patrol  
5                   car was a safer position than being in front of  
6                   the patrol car; okay? This is just a follow-up  
7                   question to that. I will rephrase it if you  
8                   want.

9                   MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: The  
10                  record will be what it was. I don't know that  
11                  Trooper Sternby heard that question either if  
12                  that is how he answered it. I think you are  
13                  putting words in his mouth.

14                  MR. FEINSTEIN: I will ask the  
15                  question again. Then I will ask a follow-up.

16                  BY MR. FEINSTEIN:

17                  Q. In your opinion, Trooper Sternby,  
18                  would Mr. Bill have been in a safer position in  
19                  front of the patrol car waiting for you to come  
20                  back with the PBT or seated in the patrol car  
21                  waiting for you to give him the --

22                  MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: Again, I  
23                  will object to the form. Safer than what?

24                  MR. FEINSTEIN: One is safer  
25                  than the other, Mary. I want to know what his

1 v. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein  
2 opinion is.

3 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: It is in  
4 hindsight because he fell. He could have  
5 fallen going to the car.

6 MR. FEINSTEIN: It is from an  
7 objective standpoint.

8 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: We  
9 disagree.

10 MR. FEINSTEIN: One is a safer  
11 position than the other. I want his opinion.  
12 If he tells me it is safer for the person to be  
13 outside the patrol car, then, that is his  
14 opinion.

15 I am asking his opinion is it safer  
16 to be in front of the patrol car waiting for  
17 the PBT or in the patrol car waiting for the  
18 PBT.

19 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: I am  
20 objecting to the form because the safer is your  
21 conclusion and assumes facts not in evidence.  
22 He can answer it. It is an objection to the  
23 form.

24 MR. FEINSTEIN: That is fine.

25 BY MR. FEINSTEIN:

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. I am asking for an opinion. Is the  
3 person safer in front of the patrol car or in  
4 the patrol car?

5 A. It depends on the circumstances. If  
6 he is standing in front of the patrol car and I  
7 have no reason to believe that he is in danger,  
8 which at that point I did not, and somebody  
9 comes and runs into the patrol car and it  
10 slides past him, it is safe.

11 If I put him in the patrol car and  
12 they run into the patrol car and he gets  
13 smashed up in the car, then, it would be safer  
14 for him to be in the front.

15 I don't know if I can narrow it down  
16 to say one is ultimately always safer than the  
17 other one.

18 I felt he would be safe at either  
19 location at that time. I didn't distinguish  
20 any significant difference between the two.

21 MR. FEINSTEIN: Can we up the  
22 videotape? We are going to watch the videotape  
23 for a while and discuss it.

24 (At this juncture, the  
25 videotape was played.)

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. What I would like to do, Trooper, is  
3 for you to -- I know it is about 15 minutes  
4 long or so. I would like you to watch the  
5 tape, and then I am going to ask you specific  
6 questions about it.

7 I just want to make sure you have  
8 seen the whole tape and are familiar with it.  
9 I know you have reviewed it before. It is  
10 going to take a little while, and I apologize.  
11 It is just for thoroughness.

12 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: I need to  
13 move up. If you do, go ahead.

14 MR. FEINSTEIN: I will be loud  
15 enough for you to hear me.

16 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: I don't  
17 have my glasses.

18 MR. FEINSTEIN: I am going to  
19 ask the videotape be marked as Exhibit No. 3.  
20 Exhibit No. 2 will be the Criminal Complaint.

21 (Sternby Exhibit Nos. 2 and 3  
22 were marked for identification.)

23 BY MR. FEINSTEIN:

24 Q. Trooper, before we watch the entire  
25 tape, is this, in fact, the tape of Mr. Bill's

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 arrest on February 22, 2003?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. The camera that is in the patrol  
5 car, does it work automatically? You just turn  
6 it on?

7 A. I believe it is set to come on when  
8 the recovery headlights come on. It can also  
9 be activated manually as well.

10 Q. Is that what you did in this case?  
11 You activated it manually?

12 A. I don't recall.

13 (At this juncture, Mr. Bill  
14 joined the deposition.)

15 Q. Now, Trooper, you have looked at the  
16 tape. We stopped it at a certain point  
17 immediately after the fall. Would you agree  
18 with that?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. You are confident that is the same  
21 tape that you created that night?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Based upon the clock that is on  
24 there, it doesn't appear if there were any cuts  
25 or edits in the tape. Would you agree with

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. We are going to watch the tape  
5 again, and I am going to ask you specific  
6 questions about it.

7 Now, this is the blue pickup truck  
8 that is referred to in your report?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Who is the person here (indicating)  
11 on the right side of the screen?

12 A. John Dennis.

13 Q. And he is the trooper who was with  
14 you that night?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. He is kind of occupied taking out  
17 the passenger?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What was the passengers's name?

20 A. Robert Joyce.

21 Q. Are you depicted on the left side of  
22 the screen?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you are removing Mr. Bill from  
25 the truck; is that correct?

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. At any time in your observations of  
4 the truck, did you see any open bottles of  
5 liquor, alcohol, or beer inside the truck that  
6 would indicate there was consumption of alcohol  
7 in the truck?

8 A. Can I refer to my report?

9 Q. You may.

10 A. I have a notation made that I did  
11 not observe anything in the truck or in the  
12 surrounding area.

13 Q. Do you know if your partner made any  
14 observations or would that have been included  
15 in the same report?

16 A. I believe we discussed it. I don't  
17 recall for certain, but he didn't make a  
18 separate report or anything.

19 Q. The time on the videotape says  
20 6:24:32. You appear to be talking to Mr. Bill.  
21 Do you have any recollection of what you are  
22 saying to him at this time?

23 A. I would have to estimate from normal  
24 protocol. I don't recall independently.

25 I would like to rephrase my last

1                   V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein  
2           statement. Trooper Dennis did make a report,  
3           but it is not attached to this one. It is just  
4           one from Mr. Joyce himself. I don't have any  
5           knowledge of him observing any beverages.

6           Q.       Based upon your normal protocol,  
7           what do you believe you are saying to Mr. Bill  
8           at that time?

9           A.       I would be asking him or trying to  
10          ascertain when he got there, allowing he had  
11          been there, getting his driver's license,  
12          registration, insurance cards.

13          Q.       Was he able to tell you how long he  
14          had been there?

15          A.       I don't recall.

16          Q.       According to the police report, this  
17          was a little bit before 6 a.m.; is that  
18          correct?

19          A.       I believe we got the call -- I have  
20          noted in the report the time as being 5:45. It  
21          would have been an estimation.

22          Q.       At 6:25:42 would you agree with me  
23          that the trooper, your partner, was obstructing  
24          our view of you and Mr. Bill?

25          A.       Yes.



1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. Now, let's pause that for a second.  
3 Let's rewind that. At the point of 6:25:48,  
4 you are leaving the truck. Do you know where  
5 you are going at that time?

6 A. I am going to the patrol car to  
7 reposition the camera.

8 Q. The 6:25 that we have been referring  
9 to, that is the time of day; is that correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Why were you repositioning the  
12 camera?

13 A. Because I was going to take him to  
14 an area where a field sobriety test could be  
15 attempted.

16 Q. Do you have any recollection of what  
17 is happening off camera while there is nothing  
18 in the camera's view?

19 A. I believe that is the time where we  
20 were trying to talk to Mr. Joyce when he was  
21 insisting that he was the driver and the owner  
22 of the truck and I was confronting him that the  
23 name on the registration wasn't his.

24 He was telling me it was a misprint  
25 or typographical error or something to that

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein  
2 effect and just generally trying to --

3 Q. Do you have any recollection of  
4 what, if anything, Mr. Bill was doing at that  
5 time?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. It appeared when we last saw  
8 Mr. Bill he was standing next to Mr. Joyce  
9 leaning against the truck. Do you know if he  
10 left that area at all?

11 A. I don't believe he did.

12 Q. Can I assume the red light I see  
13 going across the board is from your patrol  
14 lights?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It is not a UFO or anything like  
17 that, red mysterious lights that are flashing?

18 A. No.

19 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: That is  
20 westmoreland County.

21 MR. FEINSTEIN: I see. I  
22 always get those two counties mixed up. This  
23 would not make a good one for television.

24 Q. A person just appeared on the right  
25 side of the screen and that was you; is that

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. We just saw your partner walk across  
5 the screen?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. This is at about 6:30. Are you  
8 talking to Mr. Bill at this time?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What do you with your flashlight?

11 A. I am illuminating the area where my  
12 feet are positioned trying to demonstrate to  
13 him the position I want him to stand in while I  
14 instruct him on the one leg stand test.

15 Q. At that time did it appear he was  
16 able to understand your instructions?

17 A. As far as I could tell, he seemed to  
18 be cognizant of what I was saying.

19 Q. The camera seems to go in and out of  
20 focus. Do you have any idea why?

21 A. The quality of the camera I believe  
22 when the windshield wipers go over it tries to  
23 focus on those and then it focuses back. It is  
24 an auto focus portion. Our newer cameras are  
25 better quality.

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. At 6:31:34 are you trying to  
3 demonstrate to Mr. Bill what he is supposed to  
4 be doing?

5 A. Yes. This would be the walk and  
6 turn test.

7 Q. In terms of the order that you do  
8 things, is the walk and turn test the first  
9 test you do or the second?

10 A. Generally, I do the one leg stand  
11 before the walk and turn.

12 Q. Did this depict any attempts at the  
13 one leg stand? Is that when you are previously  
14 showing your feet?

15 A. After I explained that to him; he  
16 informed me he did not wish to attempt that  
17 test.

18 Q. Did he give you a reason?

19 A. I don't believe so.

20 Q. From the tape it would appear as if  
21 Mr. Bill was capable of performing this second  
22 sobriety test.

23 A. He never began the test, so I don't  
24 know if he was capable of performing it or not.

25 Q. In fact, on your report it says he

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 couldn't follow the instructions.

3 A. That is correct.

4 Q. Do you know why or do you have an  
5 opinion as to why he couldn't follow the  
6 instructions? Was he being belligerent?

7 Actually, I will leave it as do you  
8 have an opinion as to why he couldn't follow  
9 the instructions?

10 A. He just didn't seem to understand.  
11 I would explain something to him, ask him to do  
12 something, and he just didn't seem to  
13 comprehend it.

14 Q. Did we miss the fall?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is it fair to say from your report  
17 you did not attempt the third test because it  
18 says not applicable?

19 A. The horizontal nystagmus gaze test?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. Because of a refusal or because he  
23 couldn't follow instructions or do you have any  
24 recollection?

25 A. I don't know if I hadn't gotten to

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 it or if I was going to do it later or just  
3 didn't do it. I don't recall exactly.

4 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: You had  
5 asked that before, and that is the answer he  
6 gave you.

7 MR. FEINSTEIN: I had just  
8 forgotten.

9 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: When I  
10 heard him say that, I realized --

11 A. I don't believe he refused it. I  
12 don't think I got to it for one reason or  
13 another.

14 Q. As you were walking towards the car,  
15 you did testify earlier that you were ahead and  
16 to the right. Is that you pointing out where  
17 you want him to stand?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. As I observed Mr. Bill walking  
20 towards the car, he appeared to be unstable.  
21 What was your estimation? Would you agree with  
22 that assessment?

23 A. In the initial portion when we were  
24 walking to the vehicle prior to me showing him  
25 where I wanted him to stand, he seemed to be

1 v. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 pretty good.

3 Then as he stepped in front of me,  
4 it looked like he just lost his balance and  
5 fell to the ground, but up until this portion  
6 he seemed to be okay standing still.

7 Q. It appeared you did actually see  
8 Mr. Bill?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. How did Mr. Bill fall when he fell?  
11 Can you describe that for me?

12 A. I will read you what I wrote in my  
13 report. "He walked into the patrol car,  
14 stumbled, spun and fell to the ground." I  
15 don't recall him making any overt attempts to  
16 catch himself.

17 Q. What part of his body struck the  
18 ground?

19 A. I don't know for certain. I don't  
20 recall seeing him strike the ground.

21 Q. Okay. Did he lose consciousness?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you know how long he was  
24 unconscious for?

25 A. It was intermittent.

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. Did he regain consciousness before  
3 the ambulance arrived?

4 A. I am not certain.

5 Q. Who called the ambulance?

6 A. I did or I believe I just called the  
7 station and asked for them to dispatch an  
8 ambulance.

9 Q. Did you see any blood anywhere?

10 A. No, I didn't.

11 Q. You said it was intermittent. For  
12 my purposes was Mr. Bill coming in and out of  
13 consciousness?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Was he lucid at all before the  
16 ambulance came, if you can recall?

17 A. I don't remember.

18 Q. If we followed the tape through, you  
19 would have seen the ambulance come and  
20 eventually you and your partner left the scene.  
21 Where did you go from the scene?

22 A. To Meadville Medical Center.

23 Q. Now, when we were talking off the  
24 record a little bit, we talked about the fact  
25 that Mr. Joyce was arrested at the scene?



1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I saw handcuffs being placed on him  
4 by your partner. Why was Mr. Joyce arrested at  
5 the scene?

6 A. Mr. Joyce indicated that he was  
7 driving and it was his vehicle and that  
8 Mr. Bill had only been a passenger.

9 Q. Was that inconsistent with the way  
10 you found the bodies situated, for lack of a  
11 better term, not dead bodies but the bodies  
12 situated inside the car?

13 A. It was inconsistent with the  
14 positions of the bodies in the vehicle and also  
15 the statements made by Mr. Bill.

16 Q. Did Mr. Bill admit to you he was  
17 driving the car?

18 A. He stated he was driving and it was  
19 his vehicle which was backed up by his  
20 insurance and registration cards. It was, in  
21 fact, his vehicle.

22 Q. I don't really care too much about  
23 Mr. Joyce, but you did find Mr. Bill behind the  
24 wheel of the car; is that correct?

25 A. He was in the driver's seat, yes.

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. Regardless of who actually drove the  
3 car into the ditch, is it fair to say that the  
4 person who was behind the wheel at the time  
5 that they are found is in control of the  
6 vehicle?

7 A. Generally.

8 Q. To your recollection was Mr. Joyce  
9 also intoxicated at the scene?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You went to the hospital, correct,  
12 you said?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. At that time while you were in the  
15 hospital, you asked Mr. Bill to consent to  
16 having a blood test being done?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. On your report, No. 42, O'Connell  
19 warnings given at 7:20, are the O'Connell if  
20 you don't give the consent to do the blood test  
21 your driver's license will be suspended for a  
22 year?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. The consent was done at 7:20  
25 according to this time. The warnings were

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 given at 7:20. Do you know when he actually  
3 gave consent? I think you said 7:35 before.

4 A. The blood test was actually drawn at  
5 7:35. He would have given consent after the  
6 O'Connell warnings were given and he  
7 acknowledged he understood them.

8 Q. That was approximately an hour after  
9 the events we saw on the tape; is that correct?

10 A. Approximately, yes.

11 Q. It is fair to say that you don't  
12 know the last time Mr. Bill consumed any  
13 alcohol prior to the time of your stopping and  
14 tapping on the window and waking him up?

15 A. I was never able to ascertain that.

16 Q. It is also fair to say that you  
17 don't know when the blood test was taken  
18 whether Mr. Bill's blood alcohol was continuing  
19 to go up or whether it had peaked or going  
20 down?

21 A. I only have my opinions, but I am  
22 not considered an expert on that, so I would  
23 have to say no.

24 Q. Well, for the purposes of the  
25 deposition, although you are not testifying as

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 an expert, I will ask you what your opinion of  
3 that is and what your basis is.

4 A. It would be my opinion his blood  
5 alcohol would have been going down because we  
6 are talking in a period in excess of an hour  
7 from the time that he was first observed with  
8 no open containers or full containers or any  
9 containers of alcoholic beverage whatsoever in  
10 the area that we were able to observe.

11 Having a period of -- if we go by my  
12 estimate of 5:45 when the vehicle was first  
13 reported, you are talking a period of almost  
14 two hours. Any absorption of alcohol at that  
15 point should have long since taken place.

16 Q. The actual measured BAC was what in  
17 this case?

18 A. .25.

19 Q. That was taken at least two hours  
20 after the last consumption of alcohol?

21 A. As far as I can tell, yes.

22 Q. It is your opinion, is it, here  
23 today that, in all likelihood, Mr. Bill's BAC  
24 was higher than .25 at the time that you woke  
25 him up in the vehicle?

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 A. That would be my nonexpert belief,  
3 yes.

4 Q. Mr. Bill was, in fact, charged with  
5 DUI; is that correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you know what the disposition of  
8 that was?

9 A. He was accepted into the ARD  
10 program.

11 Q. Was his record ultimately expunged?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. In addition to DUI, what, if  
14 anything, was Mr. Bill charged with?

15 A. Can I look at the Complaint again?

16 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: You  
17 marked that as an exhibit, didn't you?

18 MR. FEINSTEIN: Yes. That was  
19 marked as Sternby Exhibit No. 2.

20 A. Careless driving.

21 Q. Was that charge dropped when the ARD  
22 was accepted?

23 A. I don't believe so, but I am not  
24 absolutely positive at this point.

25 Q. Referring back to your report, on

1 v. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 page 2 of the report, it refers to Defendant  
3 was approached and found to be difficult to  
4 wake. Can you tell me what you mean by  
5 "difficult to wake" or, I should say,  
6 "difficult to awake"?

7 A. It would have taken several seconds  
8 for him to regain consciousness. I had to tap  
9 on him. I don't recall.

10 Q. In your opinion as somebody who has  
11 made 200 arrests for DUIs, is that consistent  
12 with somebody who is heavily intoxicated?

13 A. It is a possible indicator, but that  
14 is not the only possible indicator.

15 Q. Page 3 of your report. "Sobriety  
16 tests were attempted unsuccessfully. The  
17 Defendant could not even understand the  
18 instructions."

19 You indicated that he refused to try  
20 the one leg stand on the front page of your  
21 report. Did you have any indication that  
22 Mr. Bill understood your instructions with  
23 regard to the one leg stand test?

24 A. I am not certain at this point.

25 Q. Your report continues, "The

1 v. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Defendant moved toward the patrol car as this  
3 trooper went to get a PBT. The Defendant  
4 walked into the patrol car, stumbled, spun and  
5 fell to the ground." Did he actually strike  
6 the patrol car before he fell?

7 A. I believe in the videotape he  
8 actually put his hand on the hood and attempted  
9 to catch his balance or something.

10 Q. You did say then he made no attempts  
11 to catch himself and landed head first. Your  
12 testimony today was that you don't recall  
13 whether you saw Mr. Bill's head strike the  
14 ground. Does this refresh your recollection as  
15 to whether you saw Mr. Bill's head strike the  
16 ground?

17 A. I don't recall seeing him strike the  
18 ground.

19 Q. The failure in your opinion,  
20 somebody who has had over 200 arrests for  
21 DUI -- I shouldn't say that. Poorly phrased.

22 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: Let's  
23 clarify that.

24 Q. As somebody who has made over  
25 200 arrests --

1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: Yes.

3 Q. -- or approximately 200 arrests for  
4 DUI, would difficulty in understanding  
5 instructions be an indication of heavy  
6 intoxication?

7 A. That would be one, yes.

8 Q. would incoherent speech be an  
9 indication of heavy intoxication?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. would slurred speech be an  
12 indication of heavy intoxication?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. would having bloodshot eyes be an  
15 indication of heavy intoxication?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. would having a strong odor of  
18 alcohol on the breath be an indication of heavy  
19 intoxication?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. would having unsure footing be an  
22 indication of heavy intoxication?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. would swaying -- same question.

25 A. Yes.



1 V. Sternby - by Mr. Feinstein

2 Q. Now, you indicated that no one of  
3 these factors by themselves would be conclusive  
4 of heavy intoxication; is that fair to say?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Combining those factors together,  
7 would you agree with me that even before you  
8 went to get the PBT there were indications of  
9 heavy intoxication?

10 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE:  
11 Objection. Asked and answered. Go ahead.

12 Q. You can answer.

13 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: I am  
14 sorry.

15 A. Yes.

16 MR. FEINSTEIN: Trooper, I am  
17 done.

18 As I indicated before, I believe --  
19 but I am not 100 percent sure -- there are  
20 outstanding discovery requests. I am reserving  
21 the right to recall Trooper Sternby in case  
22 there is something in response to the discovery  
23 requests that may require my additional  
24 questioning.

25 If I can, I will do it in the way of

1  
2 interrogatories so I don't have to bring him  
3 down here again.

4 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: As we  
5 said off the record, I am not aware of any. I  
6 could be wrong. If there are, we will  
7 certainly accommodate you and do what we have  
8 to do.

9 MR. FEINSTEIN: I was  
10 absolutely certain I had sent them to you until  
11 I couldn't find them in the file. I know I  
12 dictated a follow-up letter to say why haven't  
13 you answered them.

14 I don't know. My secretary has a  
15 habit of not sending out things necessarily  
16 when I think she is sending them out in any  
17 event. If you don't have them, you are going  
18 to get them.

19 MS. LYNCH FRIEDLINE: We will  
20 read it.

21 (Signature not waived.)

22 (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
23 matter was concluded at 1 p.m.)

24 -----  
25

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ) E R R A T A  
COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY ) S H E E T

WILLIAM ROBERT BILL  
VS.  
TROOPER VICTOR J. STERNBY

I, VICTOR STERNBY, have read the foregoing pages of my deposition given on February 28, 2006, and wish to make the following, if any, amendments, additions, deletions or corrections:

Pg. No. Line No. Change and reason for change:

10 (19-22) we had people thrown out at a point when  
11 they couldn't possibly be capable of receiving the  
12 minimum academic scores on the final regardless of  
13 how they did...

23 15 Not in a trial situation. I believe it is...

39 25 "Attempted to get A PBT and he fell"

64 8 the emergency lights come on.

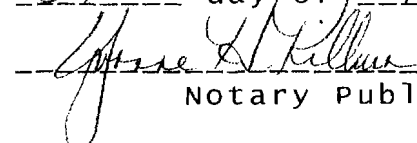
67 10 ascertain when he got there, how long he...

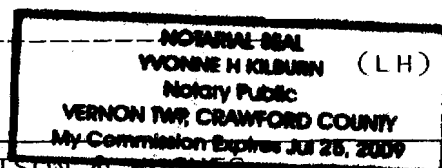
70 24 An auto focus function

In all other respects the transcript is true and correct.

  
VICTOR STERNBY

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
29th day of March, 2006.

  
Notary Public



1 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA)  
2 COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY )

3  
4 I, Linda D. Hughes, a notary public in  
5 and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do  
6 hereby certify that the witness, VICTOR  
7 STERNBY, was by me first duly sworn to testify  
8 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the  
9 truth; that the foregoing deposition was taken  
10 at the time and place stated herein; and that  
11 the said deposition was recorded  
12 stenographically by me and then reduced to  
13 typewriting under my direction, and constitutes  
14 a true record of the testimony given by said  
15 witness, all to the best of my skill and  
16 ability.

17  
18 I further certify that the inspection,  
19 reading and signing of said deposition were not  
20 waived by counsel for the respective parties  
21 and by the witness and if after 30 days the  
22 transcript has not been signed by said witness  
23 that the witness received notification and has  
24 failed to respond and the deposition may then  
25 be used as though signed.

I further certify that I am not a  
relative, or employee of either counsel, and  
that I am in no way interested, directly or  
indirectly, in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand and affixed my seal of office this  
13th day of March 2006.

*Linda D. Hughes*

